Removal of touts operating at reservation centres

†1826. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the seats are reserved at once at the time of opening of booking counters;

(b) steps being taken by Government to remove the gang of touts which is very active in making reservations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) During the peak seasons such as Summer Rush, Pooja Rush and Christmas vacations, reserved accommodation in popular trains is in high demand and gets filled-up within a short time. During the lean period, the accommodation remains available for much longer period.

(b) and (c) The following steps are being taken to curb the activities of the touts:—

(i) Commercial Officials are deputed in important reservation offices during the rush period to sign the requisition slips of the passengers standing in queue so that the reservation staff entertains only the genuine slips.

(ii) Checks are conducted to nab touts and anti-social elements in the Railway premises.

(iii) Raids are also conducted on the premises of suspected unauthorised agents in association with the police.

(iv) Regular drives are also launched at stations and trains from time to time to keep a check on the malpractices in reservation.

Rail traffic between Delhi-Bangalore

1827. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rail traffic between Delhi

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Bangalore has increased considerably and always there is long waiting list; and

(b) whether Government will consider introducing one more daily train from Bangalore to Delhi and Delhi to Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Waiting list of train is a variable factor, which varies not only from day-to-day but also from time-to-time within the same date.

(b) Introduction of trains and increase in frequency of trains is a continuous process and is dependent on traffic pattern, availability of resources and operational feasibility. A new tri-weekly train service between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Yeshwantpur is proposed to be introduced in 2003-04.

Halt to Intercity at Talcher

1828. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for providing a halt of Intercity Express at Talcher in Orissa is pending with the South East Railway;

(b) whether a demonstration (Rasta Roko) was organised by the people for a halt at the above station; and

(c) if so, the time by which this demand of the people will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Stoppage of 8303/8304 Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur Intercity Express at Talcher has been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints at Talcher and availability of alternative services.

Bilaspur Railway Zone

†1829. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount released so far, after the declaration regarding creation of Bilaspur railway zone;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.